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APPLICANT: Cragg, M.D. et al.

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TITLE: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING HEMOSTASIS OF
BLOOD VESSEL PUNCTURES WITH ABSORBABLE SPONGE

EXAMINER: Dennis Ruhl

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

This paper is in response to the Office Action dated March 4, 2002.

AMENDMENTS

In The Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line ²⁶16 as follows:

-- Once the pledget 40 has been inserted into the staging chamber 34 of the introducer 12, a conventional syringe 50 containing a hydrating fluid is connected to the luer fitting 42, as shown in FIG. 4. The pledget 40 is then hydrated within the staging chamber 34 by injecting a fluid into the staging chamber from the syringe 50 causing the pledget to swell, partially or fully blocking the lumen of the introducer. The partial hydration or wetting of the exterior surface of the pledget 40 creates a lubricous surface on the pledget. The hydrated pledget 40 is then forced into the delivery chamber 36 by injecting additional fluid with the